October 2015

Dear Parents and Guardians,

During Open House 2015, I mentioned that throughout the school year, I would be emailing Guidance information to you.

Recently, I met with the eighth grade students and presented ***Rules of the Road - How to Succeed in Eighth Grade and Beyond****.*

During the presentation your child received two handouts:

1. ***BTSD’s District Grading Policies***

Details the ***Honor Roll***, ***Course Failure***, ***Failure for the Year***, and ***Athlete***

***Eligibility Requirement* policies.**

**2. *Important Document Requirements and Dates for Armstrong Parents and***

***Guardians whose Child is Applying to the Bucks County Technical High***

***School for the 2016 – 2017 School Year.***

Provides a chronological listing of the requirements that need to be completed

for both Armstrong Middle School and the Bucks County Technical High

School **by the corresponding deadline date**.

These two documents along with additional documents from the presentation can be reviewed by clicking on this link:

[*http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/Rules+of+the+Road+-+How+to+Succeed+in+Eighth+Grade+and+Beyond*](http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/Rules+of+the+Road+-+How+to+Succeed+in+Eighth+Grade+and+Beyond)*.*

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the information presented, please either call or email me at 215-945-2570/ [karla.jones@bristoltwpsd.org](mailto:kjones1@btsd.us).

Sincerely,

Karla Davis Jones

Eighth Grade School Counselor

Neil A. Armstrong Middle School

# 475 Wistar Road

# Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania

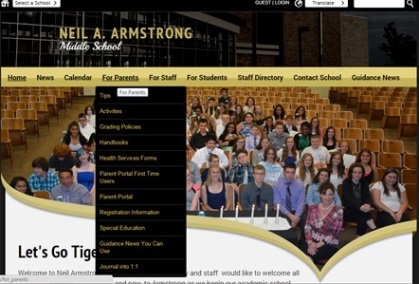
**19030**

**215-945-2570**

October 2015

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Recently, I met with your child’s class to present***Rules of the Road – How to Succeed in Eighth Grade and Beyond***. During the presentation, Armstrong’s Guidance webpage ***Guidance News That You Can Use***[*http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/*](http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/)and several of its resources were reviewed. The students also received the following two documents for your review: ***BTSD’s District Grading Policies*** and ***Important Document Requirements and Dates for the BCTHS.*** Please review with your child all of the documents presented below which can also be found at this link: <http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/Rules+of+the+Road+-+How+to+Succeed+in+Eighth+Grade+and+Beyond>

Keeping track of your child’s academic performance can initially seem a little tricky; fortunately, you have access to the ***Parent Portal*** which will provide you with confidential, accurate, and current information about your child’s attendance, grades, class assignments, and much more. If you are a **first time user**, please follow the step by step instructions at <http://www.btsd.us/parents/parent_portal___first_time_users_/>.

If you are a **returning user** to the ***Parent Portal***, please follow these simple steps:1. Log onto **Armstrong’s webpage** [http://armstrong.btsd.us**/**](http://armstrong.btsd.us/). 2. Click on the heading ***For Parents***; 3. Click on ***Parent Portal.*** Please contact our Guidance Secretary, Mrs. Jenelle Fleming, at 215-945-2570 if you have questions about the ***Parent Portal***. While on Armstrong’s webpage you can easily connect to ***Guidance News That You Can Use*** by clicking on ***Guidance News*** tab.

To assist your child in improving his/her grades, please consider enrolling him/her in ***Armstrong’s Homework Club*** which offers after school tutoring for your child. The club runs Monday through Thursday from 2:45 p.m. to 5 p.m. There are also five other clubs, such as the ***Buzz Club***, ***Club Infinity***, ***Art Club***, ***Video Club***, and ***Cooking Club*** to join as well! Snacks and transportation are provided.

When you have any questions or concerns regarding your child, please either call or email me at 215-945-2570/ [karla.jones@bristoltwpsd.org](mailto:kjones1@btsd.us) so that we can work together in supporting your child’s academic and personal achievements. I will also be emailing you a copy of this letter to your ***Inbox*** within your ***Parent Portal*** account***.*** Thank you.

Best wishes for a successful school year.

Sincerely,

Karla Davis Jones

Eighth Grade School Counselor

 **Bristol Township Middle Schools**

Neil A. Armstrong Middle School Franklin D. Roosevelt Middle School

Guidance Department Guidance Department

475 Wistar Road 1001 Veterans Highway

Fairless Hills, PA 19030-4101 Bristol, PA 19007-2552

215-945-2570 (Office) (215) 788-0436 (Office)

215-945-1664 (Fax) (215)788-2629 (Fax)

**District Grading Policies**

Listed below are three important components to our grading policy: **Honor Roll**, **Course Failure**, and **Failure for the Year**. Please review each one listed below:

**Honor Roll** A student will earn honor roll status if he/she maintains a "B" average in all courses. Earning a "D" or an "F" in **any course** will exclude the student from honor roll.

**Course Failure** A student will fail a full year course, regardless of the grade point average, if he/she receives one of the following: **Grade Point Average (G.P.A.) of less than 1.0; Grade of an "F" for three marking periods; Grade of an "F" for the 3rd and 4th marking periods; or Grade of an "I" (Incomplete) for the final marking period.** Please read an example of each policy below:

* **Grade Point Average (G.P.A.) of less than 1.0**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Subject** | **First MP** | **Second MP** | **Third MP** | **Fourth MP** | **GPA for School Year** |
| **Math** | **D** | **D** | **D** | **F** | **.75 Fails** |

**Sample Grade Point Average (G.P.A) Calculation**

**Point Value for Letter Grades**

**A = 4 B = 3 C = 2 D = 1 F = 0**

**Point Value for the *First Term Grade\****  **+ D = 1**

**\*Add it to the Point Value for the *Second Term Grade*  + D = 1**

**\*Add it to the Point Value for the *Third Term Grade* + D = 1**

**\* Add it to the Point Value for the *Fourth Term Grade* + F = 0**

**Total Point Value** **= 3 *Sum***

**Total Point Value ÷ Number of Terms = G.P.A.**

**3 ÷ 4 = .75 Fail course for the year**

***Numerator* *Denominator* *Quotient***

District Grading Policies

Page 2

* **Grade of an "F" for three marking periods**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Subject** | **First MP** | **Second MP** | **Third MP** | **Fourth MP** | **GPA for School Year** |
| **Math** | **F** | **A** | **F** | **F** | **1.0** |

**Point Value for the *First Term Grade\****  **+ F = 0**

**\*Add it to the Point Value for the *Second Term Grade*  + A = 4**

**\*Add it to the Point Value for the *Third Term Grade* + F = 0**

**\* Add it to the Point Value for the *Fourth Term Grade* + F = 0**

**Total Point Value** **= 4 *Sum***

**Total Point Value ÷ Number of Terms = G.P.A.**

**4 ÷ 4 = 1.0 Fail course for the year**

***Numerator* *Denominator*  *Quotient***

* **Grade of an "F" for the 3rd and 4th marking periods**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Subject** | **First MP** | **Second MP** | **Third MP** | **Fourth MP** | **GPA for School Year** |
| **Reading** | **A** | **A** | **F** | **F** | **2.0** |

**Point Value for the *First Term Grade\****  **+ A = 4**

**\*Add it to the Point Value for the *Second Term Grade*  + A = 4**

**\*Add it to the Point Value for the *Third Term Grade* + F = 0**

**\* Add it to the Point Value for the *Fourth Term Grade* + F = 0**

**Total Point Value** = **8 *Sum***

**Total Point Value ÷ Number of Terms = G.P.A.**

**8 ÷ 4 = 2.0 Fail course for the year**

***Numerator* *Denominator* *Quotient***

District Grading Policies

Page 3

* **Grade of an "I" (Incomplete) for the final marking period**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Subject** | **First MP** | **Second MP** | **Third MP** | **Fourth MP** | **GPA for School Year** |
| **Technology** | **A** | **F** | **F** | **I** | **1.0** |

**Point Value for the *First Term Grade\****  **+A = 4**

**\*Add it to the Point Value for the *Second Term Grade*  + F = 0**

**\*Add it to the Point Value for the *Third Term Grade* + F = 0**

**\* Add it to the Point Value for the *Fourth Term Grade* + I = 0**

**Total Point Value** = **4 *Sum***

**Total Point Value ÷ Number of Terms = G.P.A.**

**4 ÷ 4 = 1.0 Fail course for the year**

***Numerator* *Denominator*  *Quotient***

Remember: For **every** **“F”** earned in a marking period, a student must earn **at** **least a “C”** in a future marking period to earn the required 1.0.

**Failure for the Year**

If a student **fails more than one** **academic subject,** he/she must attend Summer School and must pass that subject (or subjects), or he/she will be retained in his/her current grade.

If a student exceeds the attendance mandate and does not attend an attendance completion program.

**Athlete Eligibility Requirement**

Student-Athlete must follow these academic grading guidelines:

**“Failing 2 or more classes** – Student-Athlete may not practice or compete in any sport. Student-Athlete may resume practice with the team, but not compete once **one** F is lifted.”

**“Failing 1 class** – Student-Athlete may not compete in any event, but may practice with the team. Student-Athlete may return to competition once final F is lifted.”

**Worksheet**

**Student’s Grade Point Average (G.P.A) Calculation**

**Point Value for Letter Grades**

**A = 4 B = 3 C = 2 D = 1 F = 0**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Point Value for the *First Term Grade*** +

**\*Add it to the Point Value for the *Second Term Grade*** **+**

**\*Add it to the Point Value for the *Third Term Grade*** **+\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Total Point Value** **= *Sum***

**Total Point Value ÷ Number of Terms = G.P.A.**

***Numerator*  *Denominator* *Quotient***

\*Remember: For every “F” earned in a marking period, a student must earn at least a “C” in a future marking period to earn the required 1.0 Grade Point Average (G.P.A.)

**Point Value for the *First Term Grade*** +

**\*Add it to the Point Value for the *Second Term Grade*** **+**

**\*Add it to the Point Value for the *Third Term Grade*** **+\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Total Point Value** **= *Sum***

**Total Point Value ÷ Number of Terms = G.P.A.**

***Numerator*  *Denominator* *Quotient***

\*Remember: For every “F” earned in a marking period, a student must earn at least a “C” in a future marking period to earn the required 1.0 Grade Point Average (G.P.A.)

[](http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=paw+print&id=71A24A0BC43194F04847D7CC3571F311781FC6E1&FORM=IQFRBA) [](http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=paw+print&id=71A24A0BC43194F04847D7CC3571F311781FC6E1&FORM=IQFRBA) [](http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=paw+print&id=71A24A0BC43194F04847D7CC3571F311781FC6E1&FORM=IQFRBA)

Designed by Karla Jones

Armstrong Middle School

Guidance Counselor

Revised 9/19/2014

**Important Document Requirements and Dates**

**for Armstrong Parents and Guardians whose Child is Applying to the**

**Bucks County Technical High School for the 2016 – 2017 School Year**

If your child plans to apply for admission to the Bucks County Technical High School (BCTHS) <http://bcths.com/> for the 2016 – 2017 school year, he/she needs to complete all requirements listed below **by the corresponding deadline date**.

**Thursday, November 12, 2015**

Attend BCTHS’ Open House from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., where you will receive an application. You will also be receiving a postcard invitation from them via U.S. Mail. If you have any questions, please call Mr. Kevin Gentilcore, Supervisor of Pupil Services, at 215-949-1700 ext. 2977.

**Friday, November 13, 2015**

If you are unavailable to attend the BCTHS’ Open House, download an application by going to BCTHS’ website <http://bcths.com/> and clicking on ***2016-17 BCTHS Application*** linklocated on the left column.

**Friday, November 20, 2015**

The following BCTHS documents are due to **Armstrong’s Guidance Department**:

1. **Counselor Forms 1 and 2**
2. **Principal Form**

Your child will also need to give the **Teacher Recommendation Form** to an Armstrong Teacher (seventh or eighth grade) of his/her choice by **Friday, November 20, 2015**. The teacher will turn the form into the Armstrong’s Guidance Department.

**Please remember to have your child write his/her full name, etc., on each of the documents.**

**Armstrong Guidance Department will forward the following documents to the BCTHS:**

1. **Counselor Forms 1 and 2**
2. **Principal Forms**
3. **Teacher Recommendation Form**
4. **Official Transcript from Grade 7**
5. **First Marking Period Report Card for 2015 – 2016 School Year**
6. **Disciplinary and Attendance Records for Grades 7 and 8**
7. **IEP and ER/RR if needed**



**Please Turn Over**

**Important Document Requirements and Dates**

**for Armstrong Parents and Guardians whose Child is Applying to the**

**Bucks County Technical High School for the 2016 – 2017 School Year**

**Page 2**

**Monday, November 30 to Friday, December 4, 2015 – 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

The following documents are due to the BCTHS by the parents and guardians:

1. **Biographical Information Form**
2. **Essay**
3. **Area of Interest**

When these **three** documents are accepted by the BCTHS, you will receive your child’s **Lottery Number**. Keep this in a very safe place.

**December 17, 2015 – Lottery Drawing – Tentative Date**

Your child’s **Lottery Number** will be placed into a lottery spinner with all of the other **Lottery Numbers** from Bristol Township students. Each Lottery Number is then pulled determining the order in which the applications are reviewed for admission. It does not guarantee acceptance. This event is videotaped. Please contact the BCTHS at 215-949-1700 ext. 2976 to determine the exact date, time, and location of this event.

**March 14, 2016 – Decision Letters are Mailed to Parents and Guardians**

**Bucks County Technical High School Acceptance Requirements**

Please review the following acceptance requirements carefully.

● *Your child must continue to maintain adequate grades, behavior and attendance*

*for the remainder of the school year or risk having this acceptance revoked.*

*● Your child must be a resident of a BCTHS sending school district at the*

*time of application, and must be registered in the specified sending school district prior to*

*the first day of classes or this acceptance will be revoked.*

*● This acceptance is applicable only for the school district of residence at the time of acceptance.*

*Moving to another sending district may invalidate this acceptance, at the discretion of the*

*receiving school district due to district student quotas.*

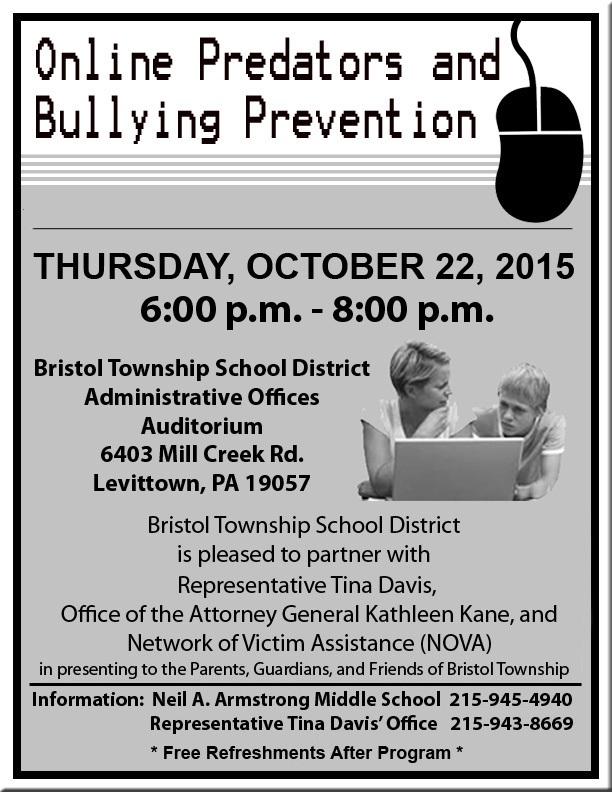
If you have any questions about the above three acceptance requirements, please contact Mr. Kevin Gentilcore, Supervisor of Pupil Services, at the Bucks County Technical High School. His telephone number is (215) 949-1700 ext. 2977.

**It is very important to remember to meet all deadline dates**. If you have any questions, please contact Karla Davis Jones, Armstrong’s Eighth Grade School Counselor, by scheduling an appointment, emailing her at [karla.jones@bristoltwpsd.org](mailto:karla.jones@bristoltwpsd.org), or calling 215-945-2570. Thank you. A copy of this document can be found at <http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/Bucks+County+Technical+High+School+-+Important+Document+Requirements+and+Dates>

10/1/2015 Karla M. Jones ©2015 [prgrsvimghttp://ts1.mm.bing.net/th?id=H.4634129126656937&w=207&h=207&c=8&pid=3.1&qlt=90&rm=2](http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=paw+print&id=71A24A0BC43194F04847D7CC3571F311781FC6E1&FORM=IQFRBA) 

**Please Turn Over**

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| --- | --- |
| BTSD Tiger - Image.jpg | *Guidance News That You Can Use* Features available resources on Armstrong’s Guidance Department  webpage ***Guidance News That You Can Use*.** |
| October 7, 2015 | Volume 1, Number 1 |
| |  | | --- | | **Guidance News That You Can Use newsletter** features available resources on Armstrong’s Guidance Department webpage **Guidance News That You Can Use.** |   Armstrong Middle School  475 Wistar Road  Fairless Hills, PA 19030  Karla Davis Jones, M.Ed.  School Counselor  Editor  [karla.jones@bristoltwpsd.org](mailto:karla.jones@bristoltwpsd.org)  215-945-2570 (O)  215-945-1664 (F)  <http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/>C:\Users\Karla\Desktop\Truman Paw Print.png C:\Users\Karla\Desktop\Truman Paw Print.png C:\Users\Karla\Desktop\Truman Paw Print.png | **Welcome to Armstrong’s Open House 2015!**  Hello Parents and Guardians,  It is my pleasure to introduce to you the ***Guidance News That You Can Use;*** Armstrong’s eighth grade Guidance newsletter <http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/>. The primary purpose of our newsletter is to feature available resources on Armstrong’s Guidance Department webpage ***Guidance News That You Can Use.***  Our webpage can also be found on Armstrong’s webpage <http://armstrong.btsd.us/> under the ***Guidance News*** tab.  On the reverse side of this newsletter Description: MC900431561[1]is the ***Parents and Guardians Survivors’ Guide - Ten Important Links to Help You and Your Child Navigate Middle School.*** For example, ***Infinite Campus Parent Portal Login Instructions – First Time Only*** and our upcoming district-wide presentation ***Online Predators and Bullying Prevention*** scheduled for ***October 22, 2015.***  Throughout the school year, I will be sending different documents to you, such as new editions of ***Guidance News That You Can Use*** and other important information about special presentations, course selection, Pennsylvania School State Assessment (PSSA), and after school activities, via handouts to your child or emails to you.  Any information that pertains just to your child will be sent either through U.S. Mail, email, or I will contact you by telephone. Please keep your home and email addresses and telephone number updated with our Guidance Office.  If you have any questions, please contact me at 215-945-2570 or [karla.jones@bristoltwpsd.org](mailto:kjones1@btsd.us).  My very best to you and your child for a successful and enjoyable school year.    Sincerely,  Karla Davis Jones  8th Grade School Counselor  ***Parents and Guardians Survivors’ Guide***  ***Ten Important Links to Help You and Your Child Navigate Middle School***  ***Academic Quarterly Warning Letters –*** If your child receives a ***D*** or ***F*** on his/her report card, a conference will be held with him/her and you will receive a letter.  <http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/Academic+Quarterly+Warning+Letters>  ***Bucks County Resource Directory*** – Summer Edition 2015 – *Services designed to assist children, youth, families & other individuals who are struggling with various issues.*  <http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/Bucks+County+Resource+Directory+-+Summer+Edition+2015>  ***Community Partnerships –***We have created partnerships with ***Bucks County Library System***, ***Delaware Valley Children’s Center***, ***Network of Victim Assistance NOVA***, ***The Peace Center, and 21st Century Afterschool Program***.  <http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/Community+Partnerships>  ***District Grading Policy –*** Provides criteria for ***Honor Roll***, ***Course Failure***, ***Failure for the Year***, and ***Athlete Eligibility Requirement*.**  <http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/District+Grading+Policy+with+G.P.A.+Calculations+and+Student+Worksheet>  ***Free and Reduced Meals*** ***–*** All of the documents you will need to apply online or by paper format.  <http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/Free+and+Reduced+Meals>  ***Guidance Department Services –*** We offer a number of services to help you and your child.  <http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/Guidance+Department+Services>  ***Infinite Campus Parent Portal Login Instructions – First Time Only***  <http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/Infinite+Campus+Parent+Portal+Login+Instructions+-+First+Time+Only>  ***Online Predators and Bullying Prevention – Wednesday, October 22, 2015***  Upcoming parent and guardian presentation to help you protect your child from online predators. The event is being held at BTSD’s Administrative Office – Auditorium on Mill Creek Road in Levittown.  <http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/Online+Predators+and+Bullying+Prevention+Presentation+-+October+22%2C+2015>  ***Truancy Policy***  <http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/Truancy+Policy+No.+204>  ***Webpage Directory –*** Provides a summary of the different pages on ***Guidance News That You Can Use***. <http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/Webpage+Directory>  Additional resources are located at <http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/>. |



***Guidance Services***

<http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/Guidance+Department+Services>

|  |
| --- |
| ***SAP (Student Assistance Program)***  The Student Assistance Program provides help for students who are experiencing difficulties because of emotional and/or substance abuse problems. Parents/guardians, teachers, and other students are able to make confidential referrals. Please see Miss Jones for additional information. |

|  |
| --- |
| ***Mediation and Support Groups***  When a student has a personal conflict with another student(s), his/her guidance counselor can offer them the opportunity to peacefully resolve the issue through mediation. Please see Miss Jones for additional information. |

***Community Partners***

[*http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/Community+Partnerships*](http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/Community+Partnerships)

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| http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/file/view/BucksCountyLibrarySystemLogo.jpg/521333510/BucksCountyLibrarySystemLogo.jpg  **Volunteer Opportunities**  <http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/Bucks+County+Library+System+-+Levittown+Branch+Resources> | http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/file/view/DVCC%20LOGO%20for%20Wikispaces%20Community%20Partnerships%20Page%208%2021%202015.jpg/557107851/320x148/DVCC%20LOGO%20for%20Wikispaces%20Community%20Partnerships%20Page%208%2021%202015.jpg  **School Based Counseling Services for Your Child**  <http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/Delaware+Valley+Children%27s+Center> | http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/file/view/40th.jpg/526987178/368x185/40th.jpg  **In Crisis? Get help 24 hours a day.**  **Call 1-800-675-6900**  <http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/Network+of+Victim+Assistance+%28NOVA%29> |
| http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/file/view/PC%20logo.JPG/525470340/487x152/PC%20logo.JPG  **Reduce violence and conflict in our schools, homes, and communities.**  <http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/The+Peace+Center> | http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/file/view/pccy-logo-4c-process.jpg/558600177/480x81/pccy-logo-4c-process.jpg  **Dedicated to improving the lives and life chances of children in Southeastern Pennsylvania**  <http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/Public+Citizens+for+Children+and+Youth+%28PCCY%29> | http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/file/view/21cclc%20LOGO.JPG/547999194/21cclc%20LOGO.JPG  **Community Learning Centers**  <http://guidancenewsthatyoucanuse.wikispaces.com/21st+Century+After+School+Program> |